A. Hallewell; (2) Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement; (3) Form PTO-1449; and (4) 3 references .

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 73 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 60, 65-67, 71, and 76-79 as follows:

60. (Amended) A vector for expression of a polypeptide in a mammalian cell comprising a first polynucleotide sequence that comprises:

a) [a] an upstream SV40 origin of replication;

b) a downstream SV40 polyadenylation region; and

c) a transcription regulatory region [from] homologous to a region present in human cytomegalovirus immediate early region HCMV IE1, wherein the transcription regulatory region is interposed between the SV40 origin of replication and the SV40 polyadenylation region and[, wherein the transcription regulatory region] is [sufficient to cause] capable of directing the transcription of a polypeptide coding sequence operably linked downstream from the transcription regulatory region.

65. (Amended) The vector of claim 63, wherein the transcription regulatory region further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence, wherein the second polynucleotide sequence is homologous to the first HCMV IE1 intron, proximal to a 3′ end of the promoter [in the] of human cytomegalovirus immediate early region, HCMV IE1.

66. (Amended) The vector of claim 60, wherein the SV40 polyadenylation region comprises a nucleotide sequence that is [derived from a plasmid constructed in the same manner as] homologous to a SV40 polyadenylation sequence present in plasmid pSV7d.

67. (Amended) The vector of claim 60, wherein the SV40 origin of replication comprises a nucleotide sequence that is [derived from the a plasmid constructed in the same manner as] homologous to a SV40 origin of replication sequence present in plasmid [pSV72] pSVT2.

71. (Amended) The vector of claim 60, wherein the polynucleotide sequence [is] comprises a nucleotide sequence that is homologous to a sequence present in plasmid pCMV6ARV120tpa, ATCC Accession No. 68249.

76. (Amended) A vector produced by the process comprising linking together in an operative manner:

a) a SV40 origin of replication;

b) a SV40 polyadenylation region; and

c) a transcription regulatory region from human cytomegalovirus immediate early region HCMV IE1, wherein the transcription regulatory region is [sufficient to cause] capable of directing the transcription of a polypeptide coding sequence operably linked downstream from the transcription regulatory region

14. (Amended) The vector of claim 13, wherein the vector is [constructed] arranged in the same manner as plasmid pCMV6a.

78. (Amended) A method for producing a vector for expression of a polypeptide in a mammalian cell comprising:

a) providing a first polynucleotide molecule that comprises a SV40 origin of replication;

b) providing a second polynucleotide molecule that comprises a SV40 polyadenylation region;

c) providing a third polynucleotide molecule that comprises a transcription regulatory region from human cytomegalovirus immediate early region HCMV IE1[, wherein the transcription regulatory region is sufficient to cause transcription of a polypeptide coding sequence operably linked downstream from the transcription regulatory region]; and

d) linking the SV40 origin of replication, the SV40 polyadenylation region and the regulatory region from HCMV IE1 together to form a vector that is capable of effecting the transcription of a polypeptide coding sequence operatively linked downstream from the regulatory region.

79. (Amended) An intron [derived from transcription regulatory region from] comprising a nucleotide sequence homologous to a sequence present in the first intron proximal to the 3′ end of human cytomegalovirus immediate early region HCMV [1E1] IE1[, wherein the transcription regulatory region comrpises an enhanced] promoter region [and the intron is proximal to a 3′ end of the promoter region].

Please add the following new claims:

--81. A method for producing the vector of claim 60, comprising introducing the vector into a host cell and

allowing the host cell to generate a plurality of said vectors.

82. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an enhanced promoter, wherein the promoter comprises a nucleotide sequence homologous to a promoter of human cytomegalovirus immediate early region HCMV IE1 and a first intron proximate to the 3′ end of the HCMV IE1 promoter.

83. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 82, wherein the promoter region is homologous to a promoter region in a subclone of human cytomegalovirus (Towne strain).

84. A vector for expression of a polypeptide in a mammalian cell, comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 82, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is capable of directing the transcription of a polypeptide coding sequence operably linked downstream of the nucleic acid molecule.

85. The vector of claim 84, further comprising an origin of replication operably linked upstream of the nucleic acid molecule.

86. The vector of claim 84, further comprising a polyadenylation region operably linked downstream of the nucleic acid molecule.

87. A vector for expression of a polypeptide in a mammalian cell, comprising:

a) an upstream origin of replication;

b) a downstream polyadenylation region; and

c) the nucleic acid molecule of claim 81 interposed between the origin of replication and the polyadenylation